

### **REMARKS**

Claims 8 to 17 are pending in the present application. In view of the foregoing remarks, it is respectfully submitted that all of the presently pending claims are allowable, and reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Claims 8 to 17 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over United States Patent No. 5,485,520 to Chaum et al. (the Chaum reference) in view of William Stallings, "Cryptography and Network Security, Principles and Practice", Prentice Hall, pages 151 to 153 ("the Stallings reference"), which was published in 1998.

As to the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103, Applicants have claimed priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119 to German Patent Application No. 196 24 602.4, which was filed on June 20, 1996 and for which the Patent Office has acknowledged receiving the priority document in its Communications mailed on April 27, 1999 and June 9, 1999. Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner acknowledge the § 119 priority claim in the next Communication or Office Action. To establish that claims 8 to 17 are entitled to the foreign priority date of June 20, 1996 — which precedes the 1998 published date of the Stallings reference, Applicants submit with this response an Affidavit certifying the earlier filed English translation of German Patent Application No. 196 24 602.4 (on which foreign priority is based). In view of this certification of the earlier filed English translation, which plainly establishes the foreign priority date of June 20, 1996, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the reference as to claims 8 and 17 under 35 U.S.C. § 103. (See M.P.E.P. § 201.15).

It is therefore respectfully submitted that claims 8 to 17 are allowable over the Stallings reference, since it is not prior art under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102 or 103.

For at least the reasons discussed above, withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) with respect to claims 8 to 17 is hereby respectfully requested.

**CONCLUSION**

Applicants respectfully submit that all of the pending claims of the present application are now in condition for allowance. Prompt reconsideration and allowance of the present application are therefore earnestly solicited.

Dated: 27 Sept 2005

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